

III. REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-13, 15-17, 19-24 and 26-29 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 10, 16-17 and 23-24 have been amended; and claims 5, 14, 18 and 25 have been cancelled. The above amendments are being provided to facilitate early allowance of the claimed subject matter. Applicant does not acquiesce in the correctness of the rejections and reserves the right to present specific arguments regarding any rejected claims not specifically addressed. Further, Applicant reserves the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claims priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116(b) because the Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance as discussed below; (b) does not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; and (c) places the application in better form for appeal. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment.

In the Office Action, claims 5, 14, 18 and 25 are objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent forms including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Applicant gratefully appreciates this indication. By this Amendment, claims 1, 10, 16-17 and 23-24 have been amended to include all the limitations of claims 5, 14, 18 and 25, respectively. Claims 5, 14, 18 and 25 have been cancelled. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the claimed subject matter.

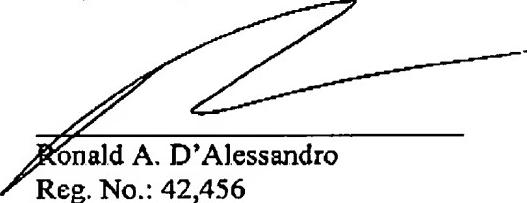
In the Office Action, claims 1-4, 8, 10-13, 15-17, 19-20, 23-24 and 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Smith, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 5,754,755),

hereafter "Smith"; and claims 6-7, 9, 21-22 and 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Smith. By this Amendment, claims 1, 10, 16-17 and 23-24 have been amended to include the allowable features of claims 5, 14, 18 and 25, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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